

Issue #72

July 6, 1984

STUFF

MURD'RING MINISTERS is a gamesine dedicated to the play of postal DIPLOMACY and other multi-player conflict games. MM subscriptions cost \$5.50/12 issues. There are no game openings. MM is published by that little old main minister, Ron Brown, 1528 El Sereno Pl., Bakersfield, CA 93304. Phone: (805) 834-8409.

Well, the Fourth of July was pretty nice this year. We had a good time staying home in the evening after a late afternoon church barbeque. I bought more fireworks than I ever had before, mostly because the kids are big enough now to enjoy them, and partly because I landed a summer job down at the local newspaper and have a few bucks coming in (sorely needed!). I bought a big box called "Colorama" and a box of Chinese Somethingorothera and had a great time nearly setting the backyard on fire, much to the boys' delight. Corey is 4½ now and Andy just turned 3. They grow up fast . . . (but not fast enough?!). Just kidding! I wouldn't trade 'em for anything.

With my summer job new, I'm spending about 9 hours a day in front of a typer. Eat your heart out, Bruce Linsey!

I mentioned awhile back that Char was playing in her first ever postal DIP game. It ("Mata Hari" in PARANOIACS' MONTHLY) recently ended (much to Char's relief!). I signed her up as a standby without her knowledge when Jack started his "All Girl" game. He didn't have any at the time and I thought she might find it interesting. So what happened? You guessed it. She gets called into the game with Winter 1901 orders requested! She inherited a bad position and did pretty well with it. She gained a couple of supply centers by working with Debi Peters but in the end, Cathy Cunning's Turkey and Daf Langley's Italy won a solid 2-way draw. It was a good experience for Char to get an idea of what I'm doing when I play in a game of pbm DIP. However, she doesn't want to sign up for a new game. Oh well . . .

I heard that the 1984 DipCon in Dallas, Texas had ninety some-odd players. Not as bad as many predicted, though well less than either coast would have produced. The DipCon Society meeting chose Seattle as the site for the next DipCon. I'm happy for Terry Tallman and the other Northwesterners, but I'm sad that one of the California bids didn't make it. That means it'll probably be another 3 years or so before I can attend the next one. Alas and alack! Congrats to Terry and crew. I'm sure they will have a most successful convention and DipCon!

I received an interesting letter from a player in one of the games recently, (for the sake of his position in the game we needn't name him or it), who was asking about the MM policy on NMRs. The letter pointed out that it is extremely frustrating to try and get something going in a game and then have one of the players you're counting on NMR. Sometimes repeatedly. Yes, it's a very frustrating feeling and anyone who sticks around in this hobby long enough to play a few games usually experiences it. In MM, you lose your position only if you NMR two successive times. Some zines stipulate in their house rules that you can only NMR x number of times (oh say, 4, for instance) then you forfeit your position to a replacement player. I'm not that strict. I feel that any player who NMRs more than once a game is usually dead meat in that game anyway. If you can't get orders in you are most likely not writing diplomacy letters either. I'd appreciate hearing if any of you feel strongly one way or the other about this . . .

MORE STUFF

The latest EVERYTHING (Summer 1984) arrived recently. Recording wins therein were MM readers Jeff Albrecht (with Ruesia in LONE STAR DIPLOMAT) and Dick Martin (with France in GRAUSTARK). Congratulations! Russia led in number of wins this time, with 6 wins in 36 games (17%) France next with 4 wins and then England with 3. Austria, Germany, and Italy had el zippo. Not a good bunch of gamee here for ye olde Central Powers, eh?

So who says living in the same town as the GM is an advantage? Jon Baldwin called in his orders last night. Nothing unusual there. He usually does. But he was calling from about 300 miles away! Jon worke for an oil comapny and is occasionally sent out of town on assignments. Oh well, maybe the next time he phones his orders in it will be a local call!

Earl Whiskeyman Jr., 27 Mark St., Milford, CT 06460 is one of the editor/publishers of THE GAMER'S ZINE. It is apparently a well-established zine having just printed issue #72! Earl & company have openings in various games including regular DIP. The gamefee is \$4.00 plus a \$2.00 NMR ~~deposi~~ fee. I'm not sure if it is refundable; they usually are. Send for a sample if you want to check it out. It is a computer-printed zine and looks nice; very legible.

The International Subscription Exchange (ISE) is being established by Steve Knight, 11905 Winterthur Ln. Apt. 103, Reston, VA 22091. The intent of the ISE is to make it easier for British and American hobbyists to obtain subscriptions to American and British zines. A potential American subscriber will send funds to Steve in US currency, Steve will send a letter to Doug Rowling in Scotland detailing which zine but sending no funds. Doug will send funds to the requested zine. British hobbyists will send funds to Doug using the opposite path. This is a great service if you are interested in receiving British zines. Send your requests with your name, address, telephone number, zine requested including publisher's name and address, telephone number, zine requested including publisher's name and address, specific mailing instructions and amount intended or number of issues desired. Add 10% extra for zines that charge a flat rate to cover variations in the exchange rate. A service fee of 10 or 20 cents will be charged.

And now, it's time once more for the . . .

ASTROLOGICAL GUIDE TO DIPLOMACY

(This series is taken from the Jan. 1st, 1981 issue of BLACK FROG, published by Jack Masters)

CANCER

(The Crab, 23 June to 23 July)

Cancerians are the "chosen ones" of the Zodiac, lucky in love, good-natured, terribly, terribly fat and ill-mannered. If you are a Cancerian, you will find great happiness with anyone, anywhere, at any time, doing anything. But marrying another Cancerian is not recommended since moon children are usually out of work and you'd both starve to death.

At DIPLOMACY the Cancerian could always win if he competed only against small stupid children or people with great mental handicaps. Actually they do manage to win their share of DIPLOMACY games and are gracious winners. But, unfortunately, they are very poor losers, inclined to sulk in defeat. Worse than that, they may even quarrel about the house rules and blame the GM for their loss.

Best Countries for Cancerians to Play:
Easiest Signs for Cancerians to Beat:
Best Zine for Cancerians to Play In:

Russia, Italy.
Capricorn, Pisces.
RETRALIATION.

THE GAMES!!

1984CH (formerly known as MM-23, forevermore to be referred to as 1984CH-thank you Madame BNC)
 1984CH SPRING 1901 ANGLO-FRENCH CLASH IN CHANNEL! NEUTRAL BALKAN STATES SEIZED! LOOKS LIKE WAR!

Austria (Johnson): A Vie-GAL; A Bud-RUM; F TRI-H.
 England (Van Meter): F LON-Eng; F Edi-NTH; A Lpl-YOR.
 France (Torkelson): A Mar-SPA; A Par-BUR; F BRE Eng.
 Germany (Coburn): F Kie-DEN; A Mun-RUH; A Ber-KIE.
 Italy (Gorham): A Ven-PIE; A Rom-VEN; F Nap-ION.
 Ruesia (Sohilling): F SEV Bla; A War-UKR; A MOS Sev; F StP(sec)-BOT.
 Turkey (Sharin): F ANK-Bla; A Con-BUL; A Smy-CON.
 Fall 1901 due 8/10/84.

COA - Curtis Van Meter, 2806 Cottage Grove #5, Des Moines, IA 50311 (everything is as before except a new apt. #).

1984CH Press-

PARIS: Bimbeau pondered the silence of the English and German governments. Eventually he turned to his aide and spoke, "It's quiet out there, Buvard. Too quiet."

ANKARA-WORLD: Okay, it's war . . . but who's the enemy?

LYONS: A well-dressed couple spoke softly at a corner table in an ordinary restaurant. No one noticed the envelope the woman slipped to her waiter as she left. As he concealed it deftly, the waiter speculated about its significance. "More instructions for Hedda Cabbage," he thought. "The tensions must be worsening."

GERMANY-WORLD: I will write you all very soon. I got my MM late (I have to go get it from Ron). And thanks to those who wrote me.

BAKERSFIELD-BERLIN: Uh, oh. I hope your declaration has not made this an Irregular game!

PARIS-ROME: Let's start a partnership to distribute wine to the tables of Europe. How do your vineyards look this year?

VIENNA: It is written in the Austrian good book; "Better safe than eliminated in 1902."

PARIS-BERLIN: Our heavens wear the morning sky
 Beribboned by a cloud;
 O, the light blue is a kingly shield
 And the dark blue is a shroud.

ST.PETERSBURG: The Tsar sends his greetings to the rest of Europe and hopes for an enjoyable game for all.

PARIS: Bimbeau was unusually angry at the end of a stormy meeting with his ministers. "I know these defensive movements may be misinterpreted," he shouted. "It's your responsibility to see they're not, you mewling so-called diplomats!"

1982HZ FALL 1907 GAME ENDS AS FRANCE AND GERMANY ACHIEVE DRAW!

1982HZ has ended in a unanimous F/G Draw. Congratulations to Dan Stafford (France) and Eric Ozog (Germany) for their two-way. Please send any endgame statements by 8/10 so they can be published in the next issue with the Final Stats.

MURD'RING MINISTERS STANDBY LIST

-Reg. DIPLOMACY - Dan Gorham, Ken Hager, Jim Bumpas, Al Rodriguez, Bill Hugh, Mike Coburn, Stan Johnson, Paul Gardner, Ron Galicia, and Ron Holl. Anyone want on or off the list? Many thanks to all the above!

MACHIAVELLI - Ron Galicia Thanks for volunteering for this one, Ron! Anyone else want to sign up? It's almost certain you'll be called for this one sooner or later!

1983CR SPRING 1904 HUNS MARCH INTO MOSCOW AS RUSSIANS ARE PUSHED FROM AUSTRIA!

England (Rodriguez): F Iri-MAO; F LON-s-F Nwy-Nth; F Nwy-NTH; A Edl-YOR.
 France (Jones): NMRI; F NAT, F ENG, A BEL, A MAR, & A PIE = all H.
 Germany (Kuszynski): A StP-MOS; A WAR-s-A StP-Mos; A Mun-BOH; A SIL-s-A Mun-Boh; A Pru-BER;
 F Den-SWE; F Bar-NWY; A HOL-H.
 Italy (Haffey): A VIE-s-Turkish A Tri-Bud; F Ven-TRI; A TYA-Pie; F Tun-WES; F Ion-TYS.
 Russia (Sherin): F Rum-H/d/-r-Sev,OTB; A Bud-Vie/d/-r-Gal,OTB; A Mos-UKR.
 Turkey (Schwartz): F Eas-ION; F AEG-s-F Eas-Ion; F Con-BLA; A Bul-RUM; A SER-s-A Bul-Rum!
 A Tri-BUD; A Gre-BUL.

Fall 1904 due 8/10/84.

*Would Jim Bumpas, 4405 Dillard Rd., Eugene, OR 97405 please standby for France?

1983CR Press-

MOSCOW-ROME: Best wishes from the Eastern Alliance -- we love to see traitors squirm!
 ANKARA-MOSCOW: There is no other way, so I've tried to make it as quick and pinless as possible.

BERGEN-BERCHTESGARTEN: Will you please let me stay in Norway for the skiing this Christmas? In return I promise you a chateau in Chantilly and a bowl of bouillabaisse in Marseille.

SEVASTOPOL (Summer Palace) ANY SYMPATHETIC LISTENERS: H-E-L-P!

ANKARA-PARIS & ROME: Who is with me and who is against me?

BAKERSFIELD-SEVASTOPOL (Summer Palace): In answer to your question, your orders for last season arrived on Tuesday, July 10th; unfortunately too late to be used.

1981D FALL 1916 GERMANY GRABS COMPLETE DOMINATION OF EUROPE! KAISER FINDS THE MAGIC #18!!

England (Arnawoodian): F NAT-LPL; F ENG-Bre; F LYO-Tus; F WES & F TUN-s-F Tys; F TYS-s-F Tun; A PIC-H (unordered).
 France (Gray): A Par-Bre/a/.
 Germany (Langley): A UKR-StP/imp/; A Nwy-STP; F Den-SKA; F Cly-EDI; F Yor-LON;
 A BEL-H; A HOL-s-A Bel; A Bur-PAR; A GAS-s-A Bur-Par; A Spa-MAR;
 A Mun-TYA; A VIE-Tri; A BUD-s-A Vie-Tri; F NTH-s-F Yor-Lon.
 Turkey (MacFarlane): A Tya-PIE; F TUS-s-A Tya-Pie; A VEN-s-F Tri; F TRI-H; A SER-s-F Rum; F RUM-H; F ROM-s-F Tus; F Ion-NAP; A APU-s-F Ion-Nap;
 F Eas-ION; F ALB & F AEG-s-F Eas-Ion.

There are no more deadlines or draw proposals as Germany has won the game. Congrats to Steve Langley!! Please have your endgame statements in by 8/10/84 so they can be published next issue with the final stats!

1981D 1916 Supply Center Chart

England- Lon, Edl, Lpl, Por, Tun, Bre, Bst	(4)-3
France- Par	(1) 0 OUT
Germany- Home, Vie, Bud, Mos, War, Swe, Den, StP, Hol, Mar, Nwy, Spa, BEL, LON, EDI, PAR..	(18) WINS!!
Turkey- Home, Bul, Bre, Ser, Tri, Ven, Nap, Rom, Rum, Sev	(12) 0

1981D (Final) Press-

PARIS-WORLD: Even though the roar of German cannon can be heard approaching, the indomitable spirit of the French people will never be vanquished by the low-life Hun.

GERMANY-FRANCE: Such is the fate of itsy bitsy powers who spend most of their time in civil disorder.

SWITZERLAND: Will England awaken to the peril of southern entanglements in time to push back the ravaging German horde? Will Turkey continue to blindly trust their German masters? Can France's government survive? Our analysts don't know either, but they'll give you 100 to 1, francs, pounds, or piastres for marks.

BAKERSFIELD-SWITZERLAND: The answers to the above are: no, yes, and no. And congratulations!

"Worse than the sun in March
 This praise doth nourish agues."

HENRY IV, PART I, IV, 1, 110.

1982IT WINTER 1906 DRAWS FAIL! (GM Note: Italy had 1 unit annihilated in '06 thus is +1, not 0)

France- No Adj

Russia- Builds F STP (sc)

Germany- No Adj

Turkey- Builds F CON & F SMY

Italy- Build F NAP

1982IT SPRING 1907 BATTLE LINES SEEM STALEMATED EXCEPT FOR TURKISH WESTWARD EXPANSION!

France (Wilson): F EDI-s-F Nwg; F NWG-s-F Nth; F NTH-c-Italian A Lon-Hol; F BEL-s-F Nth;
A RUH-s-Italian A Lon-Hol; A BUR-s-A Ruh; A PIE-s-Italian A Ven.

Germany (Kelly): No Units

Italy (Gardner): A LON-Hol; A VEN-s-F Adr-Tri; F ADR-Tri; F APU-s-A Ven; F TUN-Tys;
F NAP-Tys.

Russia (Hugh): F BAR-s-F Nwy; F NWY-s-F Ska; F SKA-s-F Bal-Den; F Bal-DEN;
F StP(sc)-BOT; F RUM-H; A KIE-Hol; A BER-Kie; A MUN-Ruh; A SIL-Mun;
A BOH-s-A Sil-Mun; A TYA-Ven; A TRI-e-A Tya-Ven; A VIE-s-A Tri.

Turkey (Albrecht): A Alb-SER; F Gre-ALB; F Aeg-GRE; F ION-H; F Con-AEG; F Smy-EAS.

Fall 1907 due 8/10/84.

1982IT Press-

RUSSIA-FRANCE: Why don't you write me anymore, don't you like me or what?? I promise
I won't be belligerent anymore. We could be friends?!

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1983F SUMMER 1906 Austrian A Ven-r-TYA

1983F FALL 1906 DRAW FAILS! SULTAN THROWS SUPPORT TO DESPERATE POPE AS MOST RUSSIAN AREAS FALL!

Austria (Gray): A TYA-Tri; A BOH-Mun.

France (Coburn): F BAR-StP(nc); A Bel-NWY; F NTH-c-A Bel-Nwy; F NWG-s-A Bel-Nwy;
A Bur-BEL; A Mar-BUR; A Pie-TUS; F Rom-s-A Pie-Tus/d/-r-Tys,OTB;
F WES-s-F Tun; F TUN-H.

Germany (Gardner): F Bal-SWE; F DEN-s-F Bal-Swe; A KIE-Mun; A Ber-PRU; A Sil-WAR.

Italy (Gannon): A Tus-ROM; F NAP-Tun.

Russia (Scheifler): A Mos-StP/d/-r-Lvn,OTB; F Swe-SKA; A Nwy-Swe/d/-r-Fin,OTB.

Turkey (Schwautz): A Sev-MOS; A UKR-s-A Sev-Mos; A Bud-VIE; A GAL-e-A Bud-Vie; F VEN-Tri;
F ADR-Tri; A Bul-SER; A Con-BUL; F AEG-H; F NAP-s-Italian A Tus-Rom;
F ION-s-Italian F NAP-Tun.

Winter 1906 AND Spring 1907 due 8/10/84. There is a call for a R/G Draw. Please vote with
your next orders remembering that "NVR"="Yes" vote!

1983F 1906 Supply Center Chart

Austria- Yes, Yes.....	(0)	OUT
France- Home, Por, Spa, Bel, Lpl, Lon, Edi, Tun, NWY.....	(11)	+1
Germany- Home, Hol, Den, WAR, SWE.....	(7)	+2
Italy- Rom, Nap.....	(1)	-1
Russia- StP, Swe, Nwy, Mos.....	(1)	-2
Turkey- Home, Bul, Sev, Rum, Gre, Bud, Vie, Tri, Ser, NAP, VEN, MOS.....	(14)	+3

1983F Press-

CONSTANTINOPLE: Italy and Turkey sign agreement to clear up pollution in the Tyrrhenian
Sea.

MOSCOW-CONSTANTINOPLE: Take as much as you can grab. It seems I'm not in a position
to refuse.

ANKARA-BERLIN: First you say you will and then you don't. Warsaw is not for free.

PARIS-MOSCOW: Das vadonya, Comrade!

ANKARA-PARIS: If only you hadn't taken Rome. Do you think my effort is worth a try?

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"Oft expectation fails, and most oft
there

Where most it promises."

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GAMES Continue on

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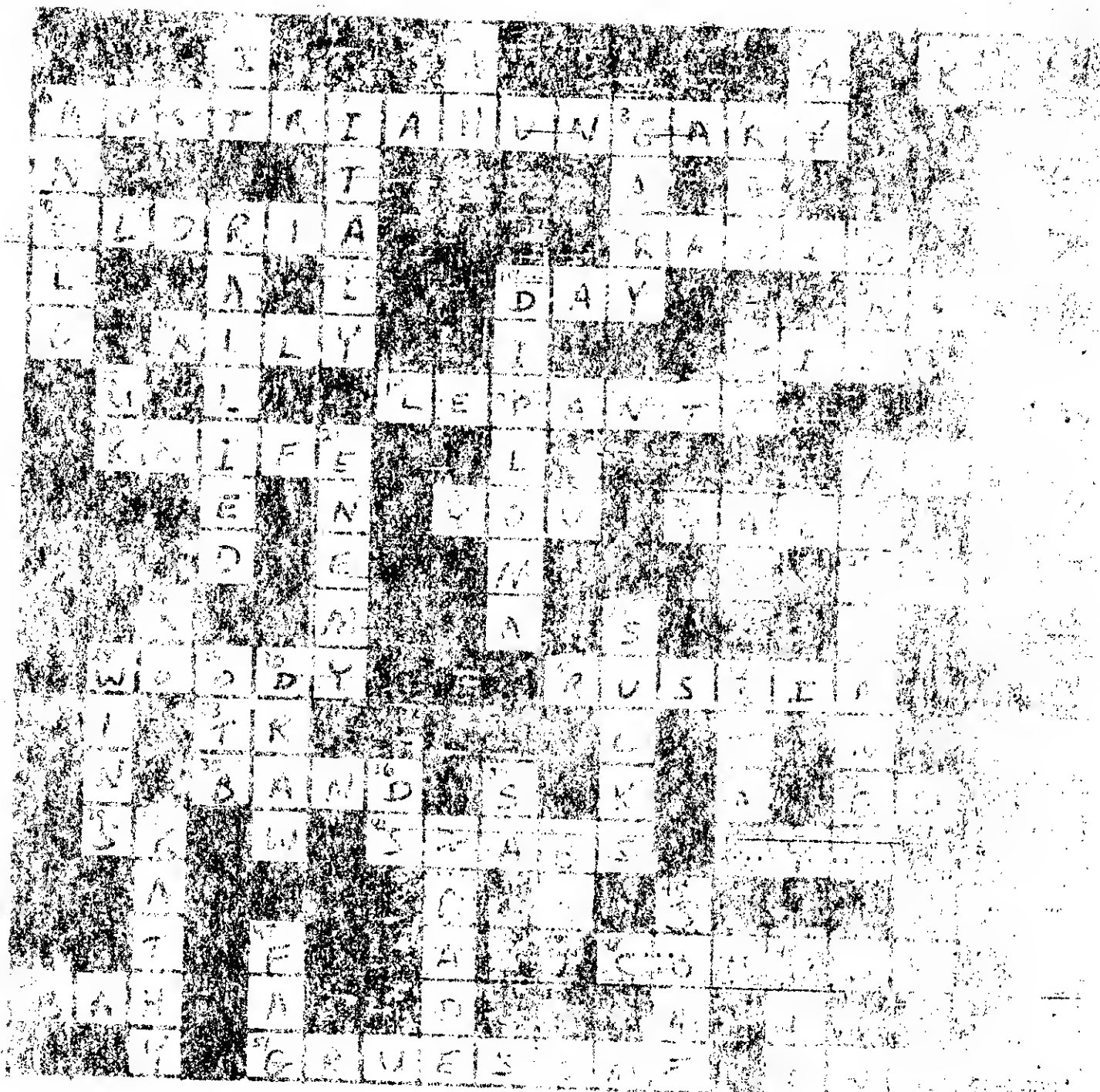
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ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL II, 1, 145.

"Very tragical mirth.
The true beginning of our end."

A MIDSUMMER-NIGHT'S DREAM V, 1, 111.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

In Dbl. Issue #67-68, the last all-reading issue, I ran the above puzzle, so now hear are the answers you can feast your eyes upon. I'll pass on listing the entire puzzle again, hoping that anyone who is interested in the answers probably still has the issue still. Let me know if you liked it well enough for me to construct another sometime. - RB
PS- The answer to 43 down is "BS"!

"There is no vice so simple but assumes
Some mark of virtue on his outward
parts."

1983CS SUMMER 1904 Italian A Rum-r-GAL

1983CS FALL 1904 A LOT OF GIVE AND TAKE GOING ON IN EUROPE THIS YEAR! WAR RAGES ACROSS LAND!

Austria (Hager): A VEN-s-French A Pie-Tus/NSO/; F ALB-Ion; A Bud-VIE; A Ser-BUD;
A TRI-s-A Ser-Bud.
England (Johnson): F Nwy-Swe/d/-r-Nwg,Nth,OTB; F BAR-StP(nc); F Nth-DEN; F SKA-s-F Nth-Ska; A HOL-s-French A Kie.
France (Rowell): A MUN-Sil; A KIE-s-English F Nth-Den; A PIE-s-Austrian A Ven;
A Gas-BUR; F Wes-TUN.
Germany (Kettman): F Bal-BER; F Den-BAL.
Italy (Baldwin): A GAL-Bud; F GRE-s-Turkish F Aeg-Ion; A ROM-s-A Tus-Ven; A TUS-Ven.
Russia (Gorham): A StP-NWY; A SWE-s-A StP-Nwy; A LVN-StP; A SIL-Mun.
Turkey (Pitas): A Sev-UKR; A Rum-SER; A BUL-s-A Rum-Ser; F Bla-CON; F Aeg-ION.
Winter 1904 AND Spring 1905 are due 8/10/84.

1983CS 1904 Supply Center Chart

Austria- Home, Ser, Ven.....	(4)-1	
England- Home, Bel, Hol, DEN.....	(6)+1	
France- Home, Spa, Por, Mun, Kie, TUN.....	(8)+3	(was 2 short)
Germany- Ber, Den.....	(1)-1	
Italy- Rom, Nap, Tur, Gre.....	(4) 0	(was 1 short)
Russia- Mos, War, StP, Swe, Nwy.....	(5)+1	(was 1 short)
Turkey- Home, Bul, Sev, SER.....	(6)+1	

1982CS Press-

PARIS: I think the post office is a Russian ally.
LONDON: In a world of disarray; Let it be remembered England kept its cool.

1983HX WINTER 1902 SEASON SEPARATE AT PLAYERS' REQUEST:

Austria- No Adj	Italy- No Adj
England- No Adj	Russia- F Swe-r-BOT; Disbands F Sev
France- Builds A BRE	Turkey- No Adj
Germany- Builds F KIE	

(GM Notes: David Mullin NMR'd in F'02 and Mike Kettman was called on to standby. Mike did not send in standby orders and ~~we~~ did ask to be taken off the standby list. No orders were necessary from Austria this time, so Dave Mullin is still in control, but a new standby is needed to send in S'03 orders for Austria. Would Ken Hager, 412 Alderdale Crl. Anaheim, CA 92807 please standby for Austria?-RB)

Orders on file for E,F,G,I,R, & T.

Spring 1903 is due 8/10/84. Press is held until Spring season published in next issue.

Romans, countrymen, and lovers!
hear me for my cause; and be silent,
that you may hear."

JULIUS CAESAR III, ii, 13.

"Those he commands move only in
command,
Nothing in love; now does he feel his
title
Hang loose about him, like a giant's
robe
Upon a dwarfish thief."

MACBETH V, ii, 19.

"The devil can cite Scripture for his purpose,"

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE I, iii, 99.

• MACHIAVELLI NO. 51

GM Note: Just noticed that there were two other illegal builds submitted during the last Builds and Adjustment Phase: Venice's build of A5 Treviso and Florence's build of A3 Florence are both disallowed due to Famine in those provinces. (Optional Rules III.4.b. - "New military units may not be placed in provinces or in fortified cities in provinces that contain a Famine unit.")

CEDARHURST-GM: (from Dan Palter) - I would like also to thank you for your response to my objections to your adjudications. I still disagree but I do see your side of it and in any event it is rare that a GM will take the time out to seriously answer such a complaint. Win, lose, or draw you handled this issue beautifully and my hat's off to you. Best regards, Scott Palter.

Your welcomes. I try, although I realize I fall short of infallibility many times. I appreciate you letting me know.

Now, from Mike Kettman, another Protest:

"I do protest being charged 6 ducats for my invalid placement of units. Your house rules specifically penalizes players for incorrect "orders". According to the rule book, building and payment for units are not orders. Orders are listed on pages 8-9, 13-14. I do not believe military unit adjustment does not count as orders. Therefore, I believe I should not be penalized the 6 ducats.

In protest of your ruling, all of my orders are changed to Hold unless I am awarded those 6 ducats. I also formally protest and seek the services of an ombudsman. Yours, Mike Kettman."

Mike, I'm very sorry you feel that way. Changing your orders all to Hold hurts no one but your own position, but if that is your wish, you've got it. My "interpretation" or "ruling" or whatever you want to call it must stand. You shouldn't feel too bad, though. Two other players are getting hurt on the same rule, too! (See the note about Cannon and Coburn above). But on pg. 13 of the MACHIAVELLI Rulebook, Rule VI.(Finances)A.(General Rules For Writing Orders)3, states the following: "As in orders for military units, no expenditure orders can be changed after the end of the Order Writing Phase. Incorrect orders must be followed, if possible, and invalid orders are ignored; although, in both cases, the ducat costs must still be paid, even if wasted." Sorry, but I must follow what the rulebook says. Your units will hold this spring, but I certainly hope you continue in the game. You are still in a pretty good position.

Now, how about some QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS?

Q: How does one support a unit's order to hold?

A: By giving support into the province containing the holding unit. For example: A1 Salerno-H; A2 Otranto-S-Salerno.

Q: There are three bodies of water that don't seem to be credited to countries. In Spring 1454 Florence went into Eastern Gulf of Lyons, Naples passed into Gulf of Naples, and Turkey was in the Western Mediterranean. None seemed to be credited with those bodies of water.

A: That is correct. None were. You see, seas are different from land spaces for determining Income. For a land space, you merely have to be the last one to have passed through. In the water, it only counts if you are presently occupying it with a fleet at the time Income is determined.

Q: Does Venice count as both a province and a city?

A: Yes.

Q: Why doesn't Venice power have a city count of 7, Padua, Dalmatia, Venice(3), Treviso, and Ferrara?

A: Well, I found 2 errors in Venice's Income Determination because of your question! First of all, he gets all the cities you named above except for Treviso because of Famine. So I gyped him for that. But I noticed I also didn't credit him for Venice Lagoon as a Sea Space. (Dalmatia is the other one I failed to give credit for!)

Q: WHY does Austria have a city count of 4 when Croatia is in famine? The same for the French with Turin.

A: You're right on both of them! Austria's build last time can't happen for lack of money. Austria did not build A4 Austria and has 2d left over. France should only have 5d.

Q: I thought Tivoli was not part of the Papacy in this Scenario.

A: You are again right! Papacy should have 11d in Treasury.

(Con'd next pg.)

MACHIAVELLI NO. 51 (Con'd)

GM Note: As I mentioned before, I will keep this game moving along despite the corrections that will be pretty constant throughout this game. There are some major corrections, but we will go ahead with this and every other season as scheduled; otherwise it seems to me that this game will be suffering constant and numerous delays which are death to a good, smooth game.

MACH NO. 51 SPRING 1455

Milan (Albrecht): A1 Genoa-S-Montferrat; A2 Milan-A-Como; A3 Trent-B(autonomous garrison falls); A4 Pavia-A-Montferrat; A5 Cremona-A-Piancenza; G1 Milan-Converts-A6 Milan.

Venice (Coburn): A1 Ferrara-S-Verona; A2 Friuli-H; A3 Padua-A-Verona; A4 Dalmatia-S-Croatia; F1 Istria-A-Croatia; F2 VenLgn-A-Upper Adr;

Florence (Cannon): A1 Perugia-A-Spoleto; A2 Bologna-S-Modena; A3 Arezzo-A-Sienna; A4 Florence-A-Urbino/NSU/; F1 Lucca-A-Modena.

Papacy (Kettman): A1 Modena-H/d/-r-Pont., Parm., Mant., OVB; A2 Capua-H; A3 Patrimony-H; A4 Rome-H; F1 Aquila-H.

Naples (Lucas): A1 Salerno-A-Naples; F1 EastTys-S-Messina; F2 WestTys-A-Corsica; F3 Messina-H.

Turks (Palter): A1 Albania-A-Ragusa; F1 Ionian-S-Messina; F2 Palermo-A-Messina; KI F3 Tunis-A-WesMed.

Austria (Broshot): A1 Croatia-A-Bosnia; A2 Carinthia-S-Tyrolia; A3 Carniola-A-Croatia/NSU/; A3 Tyrolia-H(unordered); A4 Austria-A-Tyrolia/NSU/.

France (Scheifler): A1 Savoy-B; A2 Swiss-H; F1 WegGlyo-A-WesMed; F2 Marseilles-A-Provence.

DEATHS BY FAMINE: Venice F1-Croatia; Papacy A2-Capua.

Summer 1455 due 8/8/84.

SUMMER 1455 PLAGUE RESULTS: dice roll - 6 - "Good Year-Column only". Plague strikes in: Rome, Lucca, Padua, Tunis, & Cremona.

DEATHS BY PLAGUE: Papacy A4-Rome; Turks F3-Tunis.

TREASURY REPORT -

Milan - 13d	Naples - 5d
Venice - 12d	Turks - 1d
Florence - 1d	Austria - 2d
Papacy - 11d	France - 5d

MACH NO. 51 Press-

THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE - THE DOGE: Pax . . . and shall we divide up the Adriatic and rid Christendom of the heathen?

AUSTRIA-FRANCE: Where shall we meet - How about the capital of Sullivan County, MO?

VENICE: The Venetian Republic, after months of political upheaval, has elected its new prime minister. The new PM announces that he would dispatch ministers to Milan, Tunis, Florence, Naples, and Rome . . . and pikes to Austria.

AUSTRIA-NAPLES: Got your of 5/16. Shall we talk Turkey?

((GM Note: Jim Broshot requests you use his address as follows: Jim Broshot, PO Box 82, Kingston, MO 64650. So don't use his old address anymore, OK?))

"There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to
fortune;

Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries."

"Bait the hook well: this fish will
bite."

"Are you good men and true?"

JULIUS CAESAR IV, III, 217.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING II, III, 121

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING III, III, 1:

1983AY PUBLISHER STATEMENT AND COMMENT

Last issue, 1983AY was delayed by the GM, Mike Coburn. Mike (and I) had just been informed by the Boardman Number Custodian, Kathy Byrne that this game would be noted as Irregular. Mike protested and wanted the game delayed until his protest had been registered.

For those of you interested in this and are new (somewhat) to the pbm hobby, a little background is necessary. The Boardman Number Custodian (BNC) keeps a record of all postal DIPLOMACY games and assigns each new gamestart a Boardman Number which identifies each individual game. The BNC also notes and publishes the final game charts and Ratings Masters use these stats (found in EVERYTHING) to base their various ratings systems on. If the game is unacceptable in some way, the BNC notes it so that Ratings Masters won't use those games when they compute their rankings. In the past, if a game had something "irregular" about it it was so noted. For example, Bernie Oaklyn's games where he as the GM was playing a position in a game as well, or a player playing two countries in the same game, etc.

1983AY began when I had an idea it would be fun to play as a player in my own zine. I've published quite awhile and had never done it before. Coburn said he'd give a shot at being the GM, so I decided to do it. Then I took it a step further and thought it would be fun to make this an Invitational game and only invite players who were known to be highly interested players, good players who wouldn't be dropping by the wayside; good players who enjoy a good cut-throat game of DIPLOMACY. Some who I thought of first and invited couldn't - Bruce Linsey and Steve Langley are two who I remember inviting. That's right, I said I invited them. I think, in Kathy Byrne's eyes, this game had become Irregular before the lineup had even seen print! Apparently, only the GM has the right to make the starting assignments. If the GM assigns that right to another, the game is Irregular. Two strikes against 83AY: (1) The players-to-be were invited to play by the zine's publisher, who was also a player in the game and (2) The GM did not himself make the starting assignments.

On March 21, a letter from Kathy stated, "I have been asked to look into the regularity of this game, it seems one of the players feels that there was some form of 'illegal GM-player collusion'." . . . It seems to me that through a slip of the tongue or something similar that he let it be known to you, Ron, that Dan Stafford had resigned his position. It seems that then Ron used this information in his correspondence with other players. No, I do not feel that this is a reason for irregularity - GM's are human and sometimes when discussing a game, they will inadvertently let something slip out. . .

Also this player tells me that Ron Brown randomly assigned the country positions to the players. He points out that Ron's normal procedure is to use preference lists, but in this game he did not. He claims Ron and not Mike, assigned the positions, indicating that this may have been done to benefit Ron. So, my question to both of you is - just who did assign the countries? How were they assigned? Were preferences used?"

Kathy added a note to her letter saying that she didn't feel that he has much of a case for irregularity. I wrote her back and explained why the preferences were not used for this Invitational Game; a game where many of us had been in games together previously so a random assignment was deemed superior. Mike's typewriter wasn't working at the time I was typing the issue with the 1983AY gamestart, so he requested that I type it up for him; since it was just the beginning announcement and no GMing was taking place, Mike saw no reason to have to type it, and neither did I. Mike said Dan Kuszynski could make the draw for starting positions, so Dan did, over here at my house. Dan drew Turkey for me, the country I hate the most. This also makes the game Irregular - the fact the actual GM did not make the starting assignments himself, but relegated those duties to a 3rd party.

On April 15, Kathy wrote me an "Off The Record" letter requesting me have Coburn write her and verify the information I provided her, and that two other players said there was no reason for the game to be Irregular. I had explained also the incident of Mike telling me that Stafford was resigning. Mike had asked me how to go about getting a standby for this game, since it was an Invitational he thought it might be different. I said we should look over the standby list and find someone we considered a good choice as a replacement player - we both decided that Jim Bumpas would be the #1 standby. This also makes the game Irregular; the fact that I as a player had something to do with who was called as a standby.

((Con'd pg. 13))

ALL PHOTOS UNMARKED
WAS HERE COURTESY OF
DON SCHILLING



Pictured above flashing his infamous "Death
Smile" is one of my very favorite people in
this crazy hobby: Bob Olsen.

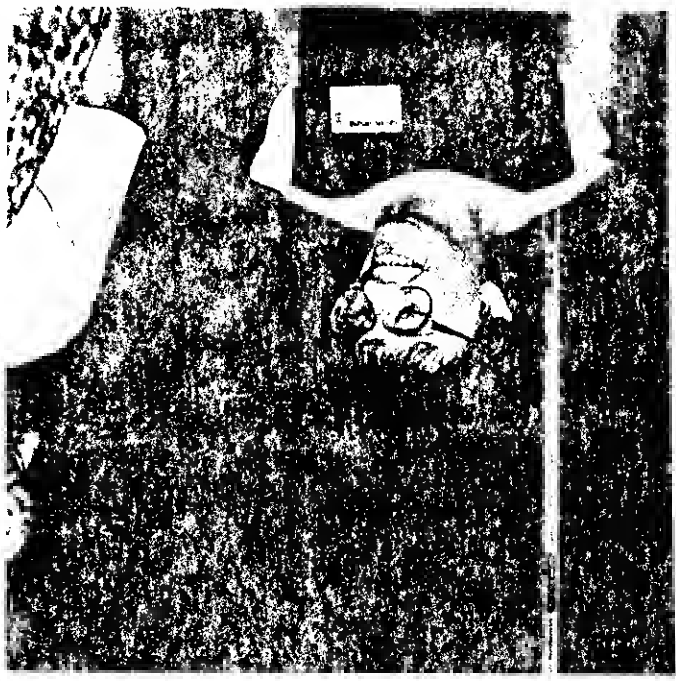
To the right is a guy I'm getting to know a
little as we are in a new game together, 1984E,
"Choprene" in XERO, his mighty Kaiser majesty,
Pete Carahan.



On the right you see one of the few
but growing in number female members
of the Postal THIRDMAY hobby, Nancy
Irwin.



On the left, clearly contemplating
where next to bury his bloody dagger
to Guy Hall, a former(?) publisher.



1983AY (Con'd) PUB. STATEMENT

Kathy also mentioned in her notes that she thought Mike telling me about the resignation was not grounds for Irregularity.

On May 15, Kathy wrote me to say, "... that we (Mark Berch and herself) are in agreement that the game will have to be declared irregular.

"The main reason for this ruling is that (and I'll quote Mark here): 'The assignment of countries is a GMing function. It must be done by him (or under his supervision). It is improper for this function to be delegated to another player. The fact that B then delegated the task to someone else is irrelevant ... it was done under B's supervision. Mark then goes on and points out that a potentially sensitive GMing function was turned over to a player, and that is improper.

"Mark also pointed out as I have previously pointed out to the three of you that the GM did indeed break player/GM confidentiality when he told Ron that Dan planned to resign.

"Both of the above although done unintentionally cause the game to be declared irregular due to GM misconduct. In no way, do I feel that Mike did this maliciously or to help Ron. I feel the real culprit was the fact that the GM was a novice, and therefore, he really didn't know any better. ... I honestly see no evidence of "GM/Player Collusion".

Well, when I received this letter, I felt that Kathy was declaring the game to be Irregular for two reasons: 1) because a Player in the game (myself) assigned the game positions; and 2) because Mike had told me that Dan Stafford was resigning.

With this ruling in mind, I wrote Kathy (as did Mike) and tried to clarify what was apparently a misunderstanding. I did NOT assign the countries - they were the luck of the draw as made by a 3rd party, Dan Kuszynski. And Mike only told me that Dan was resigning AFTER I had turned in my orders for the next season and guaranteed him that I would not change them. Under the circumstances, I felt the reasons Kathy gave for declaring the game Irregular were not correct. To my letter of protest I received the following letter from Kathy:

"I will be mailing you this via Over night mail, as for some reason I see the game is being delayed until I review my decision on 83AY ((Not quite. It was delayed 1 issue so hopefully we could get this misunderstanding patched up, but regardless it would have started again with this issue-RB))

"As for your comment that I declared this game irregular due to GM/Player Collusion, I think you better go back and reread what I wrote ... I said I believed everything was done innocently enough, but the outcome was that one player did have too much contact with the GM concerning different phases of this game. ((Gee, that sounds like GM/Player Collusion to me-RB)).

"As for Mike telling you that a player resigned, I understand the circumstances, but couldn't he have just asked you for your current stand-by list stating that he didn't know who to call if someone NMR'd. And again your comments ... Ron, you are a player in this game, there is no way that you should have any input whatsoever into who comes in as a replacement. That must be handled by the GM and the GM only - he can't confer with a player about something like that. You go on to state that you only told Bob Olson, and on this alone I would not have declared the game irregular. However, if Bumpas had come into the game and I was to find out that you had helped find an appropriate replacement then I would've declared it irregular.

"My concern was the country assignments, I understand that you didn't assign the countries, I know that Dan Kuszynski did. But you supervised this, not the GM. Mike could have let his two year old son pick the starting positions, if he was watching the child pull the blocks out of the box. However, Mike was not present when the countries were pulled ...

"Ron, I'm sorry but in my opinion, the game is irregular. I realize that you were just trying to be helpful to Mike, but there was just too much player involvement in GMing functions. However, to be totally fair to you, I called up a past BNC and asked his opinion without using names, just giving him the facts. Ron, his response was that the game is irregular ... I have gotten two outside opinions, I'm sorry if the ruling upsets you, but I find it impossible to change my ruling."

((Con'd next pg.))

1983AY PUB. STATEMENT (Con'd)

Well, I still don't agree with your decision. I know that there was no cheating going on, but no matter how nicely you try to dress up the reasons for Irregularity, it still sounds to me that that is exactly the charge being leveled.

Well, let's go ahead and print the game results for this season, and then I'll print a few more comments that have begun filtering in from the players and make a few final comments on the subject.

1983AY WINTER 1903

Austria- Disbands A Ukr & A Vie

England- No Adj

France- No Adj

Germany- No Adj (plays 1 short this yr.)

Italy- A Tri-r-OTB; Builds F ROM

Russia- Builds A STP

Turkey- Builds F SMY

1983AY SPRING 1904

Austria (Stafford): A Tri-VEN; F ADR-s-A Tri-Ven.

England (Oleen): A Spa-NAF; F WAL-Lpl; F HOL-Nth; F Nwy-StP(nc)/d/-r-Bar,Nwg,OTB.France (Lucas): F WBB-c-English A Spa-NAF; F LON-s-German F Den-Nth; F Eng-MAO; A Pie-TUS; A Mar-TUS.Germany (Albrecht): F Den-NTH; F Kie-HEL; A Ber-KIE; A MUN-e-A Ber-Kae; A EDI-Lpl.Italy (Woody): A Ven-APU; F NAP-Ion; F TUN-s-F Nap-Ion; F ROM-Tys.Russia (Brown; CAN): A STP-e-F Swe-Nwy; F Swe-NWY; F SKA-s-German F Den-Nth; A Gal-VIE; A BUD-s-A Gal-Vie; A War-GAL; F RUM-H.Turkey (Brown; US): F Smy-AEG; F ION-s-F Tys-Tun; F TYS-Tun; A Ser-ALB; A Bul-SER; F GRE-e-F Ion.

Fall 1904 due 8/10/84.

All 1983AY Press will be held until next issue.

I said I'd have a few last comments about the game. First off, I typed this report up for Mike as he was unable to procure a usable typer for the occasion. That's why all prees submitted this time will have to wait until next issue.

I won't say anything else about the Irregular decision for now. I'll be commenting about it in the RRR coming up next. Thanks. - RB.

* * *

READERS' RHETORICAL REPLIES

((from Bob Oleen))

((6/25/84))

Dear Ron,

I guess I have a bit remiss in not writing sooner but things do tend to elide along every once in awhile, you know how it is. There's a slack period in the game right now (actually it's been pretty slack for me since day one . . . what a pitiful novice stunt to have four units so totally separated . . .) so there's not that much to say about it, tactically, not that there would be anything to say anyway.

I hope you are not taking this irregular thing too much to heart. After all, it's not the end of the world if the game is irregular or not, and even though Stafford's motives may not be totally angelic, if he wants to protest, that's his right. Under the circumstances I think the BNC was wise to call in Mark Berch to review this -- this allowed him to review the facts without knowing any names, and be objective. Understand I don't really know much about the facts of the case, how the countries were picked etc., as I can't comment on those facts. It appears that Coburn is a novice (I noted in the previous issue that not only did he not know the province abbreviations, but he didn't know to call them "abbreviations" rather than "symbols". Oh well, just a tad naive I guess . . .

I hope your note in the last MM about not opening any more games isn't an indication of a weakening interest . . . it isn't, is it? Oh well, with a new game starting last issue, I guess there's plenty of time to decide, later on.

Oh, by the way, enclosed is my "ballot" on this important issue, namely, a check for a dozen more issues.

Best wishes,
Bob Oleen

(Con'd next pg.)

RRR (Con'd)

((Oh well, Bob, as for your position in the game, at least it could be worse. My initial reaction to the Irregular thing was that I'd better not GM any more games through the mail because of the reasons given in the BNC decision. That is, that 83AY should be Irregular because of a player (me) placing the players in their starting assignments, and for receiving "extra" information from the GM. My feeling was (and may still turn out to be) that I didn't want to be GMing a game on down the road somewhere and have a player accuse me of something and point back to 83AY and say, "See I'm right - just look at 83AY. The BNC herself said he cheated." Or some such scenario. The feedback I received from the few people in the hobby I've shared this with has been very positive. Perhaps I'll end up opening more games and just wait and see . . . sort of let the public decide or something. As for the decision itself, I strongly feel that if there are suddenly new rules and regulations governing games of postal DIPLOMACY, that every publisher and gamesmaster should be aware of them. I have been running postal DIP games for the past 6 years now and I never knew that a game was Irregular if the GM assigned a third party to randomly draw starting country assignments. Did you? You see what I mean. As for a weakening interest . . . hardly! I've started 3 new games in the last couple of months! On the practical side of things, there is only so much time I have to devote to this hobby. I wish I had the time Bruce Linsey has; but I don't. But I'm just as interested as ever. Thanks for the vote of confidence. - RB)).

((from Ronald Brown))

((7/6/84))

Ron,

I can't imagine why Kathy has declared our game Irregular. I don't think it should have been delayed because of that either. It's a separate issue from the play of the game. In any case, I'd like to see her reasons, as the game has not violated any of the BNC's guidelines that I'm aware of.

Best,
Ron

((Well, now you have had a chance to see Kathy's reasons. I agree with you, the game should not have been delayed because of this. But it is the right, I think, of the GM to delay a game if he feels something very unusual has happened and/or is unsure what's going on. I'm sure Mike was a bit confused by the Irregular thing and therefore, delayed the game. It was what he wanted to do, so I offered no objection. But I agree with you. Now that you know all the details, do you think this game should be Irregular? - RB))

((from Bill Hugh))

((6/28))

Dear Ron,

I read something into your GAME-OPENINGS section when you wrote, "... and quite possibly never will be again." I sure hope you're not planning to quit publishing MM as all the years I've participated in wargaming, I've never been associated with a more complete person. I would really miss you and Char and our monthly chats. Please try to endure any hardships that might presently be preventing the continued dispersion of this excellent periodical. I would have lost contact with a true friend. God's will be done - may He be with your family always!

Sincerely,
Bill Hugh

((Thanks for the very nice words, Bill. You know, this is the "reward" one gets from all the grief involved in publishing: someone telling you that you have managed to touch their lives in some small way through the vehicle of your creation - your "zine"! I appreciate your letter very much. As to the question it raises

((Con'd next pg.))

RRR (Con'd)

x about future Game Openings . . . I'm still not sure about that. My first reaction to this 83AY Irregular business was that I would not be able to open any future games because my reputation would be totally smudged by the accusation (sustained by the BNC) that the GM in a game where I was a player in my zine had given me "inside info". To me, that sounds like cheating . . . yet, I know that no cheating took place. Still, that's what it might look like to someone who did not know all the facts involved. My initial reaction was I'd better not GM any more games. I don't want to have some looney 2 years from now start saying, "Hey, I sent him a re-sub check and he didn't give me credit. You know I'm right, remember how he cheated in 83AY?" You see what I'm saying? So for now, the jury's still out. I've come to believe now that the BNC's declaration(s) must be taken with a grain of salt, but don't really mean much anyway. More on that later on somewhere . . . Thanks for writing! - RB))

((from Jim Gray))

((6/26))

Hi Ron!

I hope you are having a good summer. I just finished my finals at school and now I'm free for the whole summer! It will be nice not to have to worry about school for awhile. I'm sure you know what I mean.

Enclosed is a year's renewal. I really enjoy MM and the \$5.50 is really a steal.
Jim

((Thanks for the note and the bucks. It's ~~MM~~ always nice to hear from you and hear how you're doing. Are you going to be at the cabin this summer? That island sure sounds nice. Thanks for hanging in there. - RB))

((from Eric Ozog))

((6/26))

Ron,

That Gemini Horoscope is pretty accurate -- I tend to lose interest in the end-game and have lost or drew in games where in the beginning I had a commanding lead. Strange. True - a certain love match is making my postal games suffer.

Eric

((Glad you thought it was accurate. Some of these are pretty funny. EF had some funny stuff in it. A love match, eh? Let us know what pops up. - RB))

((from the NIXON winner for 84, Mark Frueh))

((5/2))

Dear Ron,

I won what!? My first reaction was that it couldn't be true! Just ask any of my good allies - they will tell you that I'm trustworthy and good. (Now, if I could only name a few).

Actually I was a little upset that you didn't send me a copy to let me know of my DIPLOMACY future - thanks a lot. I had to be told by the one whose nomination gave me the much over-rated award. I'll always remember that cackling voice - "Ha-ha-ha!") (Nothing is worse than to be laughed at by the Baglady - I could almost smell her breath over the telephone - it was awful!) People of New York - remember - what you throw out - Kathy eats - (Almost makes you wish that the people of NY would toss out rat poison.)

I will now defend myself and tell the true story of Detroit. Sunday arrived - round 2 - I woke up late so I had to stand-by into a game. Lucky me - France, 1903 with 5 centers. Kathy was Turkey at 8 centers. After playing with Al "Honest As The Day Is Long" Pearson I learned a few "neat" moves. I lied 3 consecutive times to England. Trouble was, England believed each lie. After the 3rd lie, I pulled an honest - I told him exactly how I was going to convoy to London. Naturally, after 3 lies he didn't believe me - so, I took London. Poor Kathy was dumbfounded; for the first time in 10 years she shut up! I know

((Con'd next pg.))

RRR (Con'd)

it was like a miracle or something. (I thanked Berch later). The game ended and I was happy.

Kathy noticing that I was drinking beer asked, "Where was the beer stashed?" As God is my witness - I told her "Upstairs in the janitor's closet." Before I could finish - Kathy ran out of the room. We ohucked because I meant the empty beer cans, upstairs in the closet. Oh, how we laughed at the idea of her going through 30 lbs. of cans of empties looking for a good beer. Then after 20 minutes I was nervous, she is a baglady right? And 30 lbs. of beer cans is worth \$10. Value systems as they are - I went upstairs.

Poor Kathy, she thought I said upstairs in the men's restroom. Just as I was on the third floor - I heard a lot of yelling and sussin'. Kathy was being hauled out of the bathroom by Detroit's finest. As she saw me, "Mark, please tell these cops what I was doing here!" It will always bring a smile to my face remembering that pleading look - she almost looked like an angel. . . almost.

I said, "Officer, I'm afraid I don't know this lady - don't you think she could get some mental help downtown at the police station?"

She jumped at me, then screamed and kicked. As the men in blue (4 I think) were dragging her away, I remembered her last words. "I'll get you Frueh! If it's the last thing I do!"

I thought, "Sure, you will, when they let you out of that padded cell." I guess some degenerate turned her loose. She has certainly got her revenge. A fate worse than death - the NIXON Award. As you now know undeserved - but with practice I'll bear up to the challenge. Kathy, where are you?

Mark Frueh

((Thanks for your acceptance speech, Mark! Your convincing story sure does set the record straight about you and the type of player you are. Why is that every winner of the NIXON writes in to say that they didn't really deserve it? Thanks for writing, Mark! - RB))

((from Mark Fassio-excerpts))

((May 10, April ?))

Hiya Ron!

. . . We're going to a DipCon on Saturday; I'll meet Woody on Friday and stay at his house. Then we go to Rutgers on Saturday for a 7-board Con . . . John and Kathy will be there, and I imagine other East Coaster will show, too. Should be a good time -- my last con before leaving for Monterey.

I decided to send Dick Martin a semi-apologetic letter, telling him I'm ready to quit "taking sides," bickering over stupid hobby feuds, etc . . . I hope he decides to be as equally "receptive"; at least, he and I will not have any hard feelings left after this. I also told Gary he shouldn't "bayonet the cursed enemy" now that he's on the ground and wounded, because public opinion is pretty weary of all this talk/spite by now . . . I know I am.

I'm going to be enroute to Monterey around the 8th of June, and take a week's leave along the way. . . As for the trip, Ron: as fate would have it, NOT ONLY will I be spending a "raucous" Saturday night in scenic Memphis, TN, home of L.G. Coughlan (aka "The Memphis Flash") but I will also (ready for this?) be spending my last night before Monterey in . . . you guessed it, charming(?) Bakersfield, CA!!!!

Seriously, Maggie and I plan on spending all 9 days of travel time to get to Monterey, and that entails a couple days in the east (TN), then about 3-5 days in the desert (yuck) seeing the Grand Canyon, Painted Desert, 4 million Apache road vendors, etc. etc. I'm sure Margie will enjoy that part of the trip! Then we go to Las Vegas for 2 days (first time for me to be there). If I don't gamble myself to death (I love to do the slots and blackjack tables), then look for me to motor in to the Bakersfield area the 16th of June, spend the night and then boogie into Monterey on Sunday.

How far are you "in" Bakersfield, Ron? I mean if you're off off Hwy 58 (or whatever road that is) and I'm in one of the Best Western/Holiday Inn places nearby, perhaps we could meet for a drinkie-poo or some general BS? . . .

Take care, Ron; again massive compliments from me on the zine, the format, the

((Con'd next pg.))

RRR (Con'd)

letter column, etc. I really like the structure, and you're one of the best GME, for my money (I know, that comment and a dime won't buy you a cup of coffee, right?). Still, continued success!

"On the road again"

Faz

((It's always good to hear from you, Mark! I've since heard from the Faz, and we didn't make connections. But for the record, I'm very near the intersection of Hwys. 59 & 99. If you were at one of the places on Truxtun, not far north of where you got off Hwy 58, then you were about 5 minutes away from my house. If any of you are, as Mark so poetically stated "on the road again", and are passing through Bakersfield, if you have scheduled a stop here for coffee or whatever and would like to meet, please give me a call. I may not be able to make it depending on when it happens; but I'd welcome the chance to meet any of you. I'm glad that all wounds are healed between you and Dick. The best thing to do to a feud is ignore it. Let us all know how you are liking Monterey. My bet is that you'll love it. Thank you for the nice words. The biggest problem with MM is its tardiness the last 2 years or so. I'm sorry when this gets out late -- but to be honest with everybody I expect it will continue for another couple of years or so. If you're still with me by then, you will probably see an improvement! I'm just getting caught up on a lot of stuff I got way behind on. It took me a long time to get the complimentary issue out to Mark Frueh and others, I was behind on my issues I send overseas to Pete Tamlyn, you name it, I was late on it!! Things are just about all up to date around here. Then I'll be able to write game letters for my own games! Take care . . . - RB))

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STILL MORE STUFF (Con'd from pg. 2)

Have you ever wanted to blow up huge areas of the world with your fleet of nuclear armed bombers? Ever wanted to see your motorized Corps slash their way through conquered territories at lightning speed? Want to do these things while you hoard as much of the world's gold supply for your own nation? If you are thinking "Yes" could be your reply, then you should think about trying NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST WORLD WAR III - a DIPLOMACY-type game created by Dave Grabar. Openings in NH WWII are now available! But . . . it's not really NH WWII! It's a variant by Hugh Polley, #4-1819-17 St., SW, Calgary, Alta., Canada T2T 4M3 entitled NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST WORLD WAR III! This 6 player version uses basically the same rules as Grabar's original version, but adjusted for the WW II era. The game is now forming, so write to Hugh at the above address if you're interested!

One final comment on the Irregular Decision regarding 1983AY -- I wanted to state all the facts publicly so that if anyone is interested, there they are. Already, something has been printed elsewhere about this game. In Robert Sacks' latest KNOWN GAME OPENINGS flyer, he states under "Ombudsman Matters": "Did you hear the story about the novice guest GM who referred to the publisher (who was a player in the game) the questions of player assignment and calling in standby players? Publishers should avoid playing in their own zines to avoid the suggestion of impropriety." This is obviously referring to 83AY; and Sacks must have certainly received this information from Kathy. I think this is one of the reasons this game has been marked for "irregularity". Namely that I dared to play in my own zine. Well, it seemed like a good idea at the time. But if I had to do over again, I would have never tried it. Oh well. I realize now that the BNC's "declaration" of Irregular status is a subjective decision only. It's her opinion and not necessarily the opinion of all Ratings Masters. VOICE OF DOOM #97 (pg.23) has an interesting letter from Rod Walker on the subject . . .

((Con'd next pg.))

YET STILL MORE STUFF (Con'd)

The results of the 1984 edition of the annual RUNESTONE POLL are out! This year's #1 Zine? EUROPA EXPRESS of course! Congratulations, Gary, on what is certainly one of the most consistently excellent zines ever published, EE! Some of the top zins: (First is the rank, then name, followed by the number of votes, and finally the avg.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <u>EUROPA EXPRESS</u> (67) 8.49 | 11. <u>FOL SI FIE</u> (13) 7.45 |
| 2. <u>ENVOY</u> (31) 8.00 | 12. <u>VOICE OF DOOM</u> (74) 7.43 |
| 3. <u>POLITESSE</u> (27) 7.86 | 13. <u>RETALIATION</u> (30) 7.34 |
| 4. <u>THE PRINCE</u> (38) 7.68 | 14. <u>RAGING MAIN</u> (32) 7.21 |
| 5. <u>30 MILES OF BAD ROAD</u> (55) 7.65 | 15. <u>WHITESTONIA</u> (47) 7.12 |
| 6. <u>LIFE OF MONTY</u> (29) 7.64 | 16. <u>BERSAGLIERI</u> (19) 7.11 |
| 7. <u>SLEEPLESS KNIGHTS</u> (28) 7.62 | 17. <u>PERELANDRA</u> (31) 7.07 |
| 8. <u>DIPLOMACY WORLD</u> (74) 7.60 | 18. <u>COAT OF ARMS</u> (37) 7.00 |
| 9. <u>NO FIXED ADDRESS</u> (34) 7.60 | 19. <u>NORTH SEALTH WEST GEORGE</u> (36) 6.93 |
| 10. <u>SNAFU</u> (33) 7.51 | 20. <u>EMHAIN MACHA</u> (21) 6.89 |

There were about 130 ballots cast this year.

A few quick comments - MM came in at #34 with 35 ballots and an average score of 6.32. I seem to always turn up real close to Mark Berch's DIPLOMACY DIGEST, which this year came in #35 with a score of 6.31. I guess MM's finish in the poll isn't so bad when I have such distinguished zins in the same area as MM . . . such as the previously mentioned DD, WINSOME-LOSESOME (6.51), MAGUS (6.65), GRAUSTARK (6.16), and others. Gary certainly deserves to be #1! I'm very happy for him. However, what is to my mind clearly the next best zins in North America is clear down at #12! VOICE OF DOOM just has to deserve better than that. Especially when you look at who is in some of the spots in front of VD in the 2-11 slots. No offense intended to the publishers of all these fine publications, but anyone with any sense would have to admit that VD is better than most . . . Of these, it's been a very long time since I've seen an ENVOY; but then that's not unusual. I don't get #'s 3-9. #10 SNAFU will be sadly missed as Ron has recently folded it. I don't see FSF, either. #13 is a good finish for Dick Martin's RETALIATION which jumped way up in the poll finish this year. Of the rest of the top 20, COA and EM will soon be folding. The rest I don't get. (Actually EMHAIN MACHA will be converted into a subzine of EE!)

In the Gamesmaster Poll, the results ran:

1. John Daly (8) 9.50
2. Andy Lischett (8) 9.25
3. Bill Placek (5) 9.20
4. Paul Rauterberg (23) 9.15
5. Gary Coughlan (11) 8.82
6. Jim Meinel (23) 8.78
7. James Woodson (9) 8.77
8. Dava Carter (8) 8.50
8. Dave Kleiman (8) 8.50
10. Mike Mazzer (5) 8.40

Ye Olde Main Minister finished at #32. (11) 7.00. I believe this could be my lowest rating ever as a GM. I guess I'm getting old and run down . . . perhaps senile?

Thanks to Randolph for conducting the Poll efficiently and to Gary, publisher of the #1 zine, and to John Daly, the #1 GM, congratulations!

I mentioned above that EMHAIN MACHA was going to become a subzine of EE. It's true. Mike will run a few of his games which are now running in EM in the new EM inside Gary's zine. I knew you couldn't keep me from getting into a game in EE somehow, Gary! It should be interesting. And to add one of my favorites to the #1 zins already - the result has to improve what is already the best zine around! Good luck on it, gentlemen!

The deadline for all games is extended to AUGUST 24, 1984 because of the lateness of this issue!!

WRAP-UP

Just so no one misses it, I'm going to mention it several times: THE DEADLINE FOR ALL GAMES IS 8/24/84!!

I apologize to all for the lateness of this issue. My "part-time" summer job has been running 40 hrs. and it's just taken me longer to get this one together than anticipated. As I just explained to Mike Cannon, I screwed up. I should have just gone ahead and gotten the games mailed out ASAP instead of keeping them in this issue with all the other stuff. Oh well. Live and learn.

Thanks to all of you who continue to show your support and appreciation . . .

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Notes to you:

Larry - Sorry
'bout the
'Choppers' NMRL!
The deadline
sneaked by.
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Best, Ron

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